

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 NEW DE 08980 090938Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 HA-05 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /077 W
-----002201 090945Z /21

O R 090822Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2120
USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 2440
INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL MADRAS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY DACCA
CINCPAC
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 8980

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, IN, UK
SUBJECT: DELHI PRESS COVERAGE OF PM DESAI'S FINAL DAY IN
LONDON

1. TWO MAJOR EVENTS, A PRESS CONFERENCE AND A BBC
TELEVISION INTERVIEW, FORMED THE BASIS OF MOST
REPORTING ON DESAI'S FINAL DAY IN LONDON IN THIS
MORNING'S DELHI NEWSPAPERS. ACCORDING TO THE
LONDON CORRESPONDENTS OF MOST MAJOR DELHI PAPERS,
THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS VINTAGE MORARJI; HIS
RESPONSES TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS WERE DESCRIBED AS
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 NEW DE 08980 090938Z

"CRYPTIC", "AMBIGUOUS", AND "UNINFORMATIVE." MUCH
OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE WAS APPARENTLY DEVOTED TO RACE
RELATIONS AND THE UK'S IMMIGRATION POLICY. ON OTHER
SUBJECTS, THE PRIME MINISTER REPLIED TO A QUESTION
REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE SOVIET UNION BY SAYING:
"IT IS NOT OUR POLICY TO INTERFERE IN OTHER COUNTRIES'
AFFAIRS, AND WE WOULD ALSO EXPECT THE SAME FROM OTHERS."

REGARDING INDIA'S RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN, HE SAID THAT THESE RELATIONS WERE GOOD AND IN A SHORT TIME " WE WILL HAVE GOOD AND FAMILY RELATIONS WITH OTHER NEIGHBORS AS WELL." REGARDING THE JUDGEMENT AGAINST FORMER PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO, MORARJI REPLIED: " I CANNOT SIT IN JUDGEMENT ON ANOTHER GOVERNMENT'S ACTION." ASKED FOR HIS COMMENTS ON SOVIET ACTIONS IN AFRICA, THE PM REPLIED: "I DO NOT LIKE ANY INTERVENTION BY ANY COUNTRY IN OTHER COUNTRIES." MORARJI REPORTEDLY ALSO TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE GOI HAD NOT YET DECIDED ON BUYING THE JAGUAR OR OTHER AIRCRAFT, BUT THAT THE DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN ON HIS RETURN TO INDIA.

2. DESAI WAS SLIGHTLY MORE EXPLICIT IN HIS BBC TV INTERVIEW, LENGTHY QUOTES FROM WHICH WERE REPORTED BY THE PTI WIRE SERVICE IN THIS MORNING'S PAPERS. ALTHOUGH INDIAN DOMESTIC ISSUES, PARTICULARLY REGARDING PROSECUTION OF MRS. GANDHI, APPARENTLY DOMINATED THE INTERVIEW, SEVERAL FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUES DID ARISE. QUOTES OF HIS RESPONSES TO VARIOUS QUESTIONS FOLLOW:

(A) SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN AFRICA : "IT IS NOT ONLY ONE COUNTRY. THE SUPERPOWERS, ALL OF THEM. IT IS A HABIT THAT ALSO DOES NOT DISAPPEAR QUICKLY. BUT THEY ARE REALIZING THAT THAT SHOULD NOT HAPPEN. THERE ALSO I AM OPTIMISTIC."
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 NEW DE 08980 090938Z

(B) ON DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN: "NO COUPS CAN EVER BE LOOKED AT WITH FAVOR ANYWHERE, PERSONALLY, FOR THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN DEMOCRACY. WELL THEN, PRESIDENT DAOUD, WHO WAS KILLED AND WAS REMOVED, ALSO HAD COME THROUGH A COUP. AND THE COUP WAS DONE BY THESE VERY PEOPLE AND THEY HAVE DONE IT AGAIN NOW. IT IS SAID THERE IS ALSO SOME INFLUENCE WITH RUSSIA, WHICH IT DENIES. BUT I DON'T THINK THAT AFGHANISTAN WILL CHANGE ITS POLICIES- IT IS A NATION OF PROUD PEOPLE AND MOST OF THEM ARE VERY RELIGIOUS AND THEREFORE I DON'T THINK THEY WILL GO UNDER THE SURVEILLANCE OF ANY SUPERPOWER."

(C) ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A US/SOVIET NAVAL AGREEMENT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN: " I THINK IN MY TALKS WITH THEM I FEEL MORE HOPEFUL BY WHAT THEY ARE SAYING. BUT I MUST ALSO, AS A PERSON OF REALISM, UNDERSTAND THAT THESE THINGS CAN'T HAPPEN OVERNIGHT. HUMAN NATURE DOESN'T REACT SO QUICKLY AND CHANGE, ROUND ABOUT TURN. BUT THEY WERE ASSURING ME THAT THEY ARE TRYING TO DO THAT."

3. EXCERPTS FROM MORARJI'S PRESS CONFERENCE AND BBC

INTERVIEW DEALING WITH NUCLEAR POLICY BEING REPORTED
SEPTTEL.

4. THIS MORNING'S "STATESMAN" ALSO CARRIES A DISPATCH
FROM ITS LONDON CORRESPONDENT HEALINED "ENGAGEMENTS TOO
HEAVY AT HIS AGE" AND REPORTING THAT PM DESAI "LOOKED
TIRED AS HE WENT FROM ONE FUNCTION TO ANOTHER FULFILLING
A TIGHT SCHEDULE" DURING THE LONDON VISIT. THE WRITER
ATTRIBUTES MORARJI'S "WAN APPEARANCE" TO THE EFFECT OF
JET LAG AND THE FACT THAT HE HAD VIRTUALLY NO REST
DURING THE VISIT EXCEPT AT NIGHT. THE PM WAS REPORTED
TO BE LOOKING "EVEN MORE EXHAUSTED" ON THE EVENING OF
JUNE 7 WHEN HE VISITED A LARGELY INDIAN NEIGHBORHOOD ON
THE OUTSKIRTS OF LONDON. THE "STATESMAN" ACCOUNT ALSO
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 NEW DE 08980 090938Z

QUOTES AP AS SAYING THAT DESAI HAS PLANNED SEVERAL
HOURS OF REST UPON ARRIVAL IN NEW YORK BEFORE ENGAGING IN
A "GRUELING SERIES OF MEETINGS AND PUBLIC APPEARANCES" IN
THE CITY.
BLOOD

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE08980
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780241-0352
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780676/aaaacnfp.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b2d6428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2416547
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DELHI PRESS COVERAGE OF PM DESAI'S FINAL DAY IN LONDON
TAGS: PDIP, OVIP, IN, UK, (DESAI, MORARJI)
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b2d6428c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014